

THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.
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THEODORE W. NOYES, Editor
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The President and the Senate.

The Senate is in an inquisitive mood on the subject of appointments. It has just rejected a nomination. It is shortly to consider others to which objection is made by members of the body. Thus arises discussion of the Senate's privilege and duty in such cases.

Under the Constitution the Senate shares with the President the responsibility for the proper filling of offices of specified grades. With him lies the power of nomination; with it the power of confirmation. If confirmation is denied, the nomination fails.

It is a wise provision, and safeguards the public service at the top. Made thus an adviser of the President, the Senate should examine all appointments with the utmost care, and have the courage to act according to its best lights.

The President need not, unless he thinks best, consult senators in advance of his action—sound them to see where they stand as to names before him. He is at liberty to seek advice outside senatorial circles. But he takes a risk in doing so. Constitutional advisers like to enjoy their constitutional rights.

Senators seeking information about a nominee naturally appeared to give it their number. They were prepared to give it to them; and it is his duty to explain matters fully. An endorsement by him carries great if not conclusive weight. An adverse report by him is of equal importance.

Twenty odd years ago a clash occurred between President Cleveland and the two senators from New York, both democrats, over an appointment to the Supreme Court. The senators won. They forced Mr. Cleveland to make an appointment not objectionable to them. But they did more than that. By their stand they secured for service on that bench one of the best lawyers in New York, and one who became a useful and eminent member of the court of his day. Mr. Justice Peckham was the man.

Some cheap wit has been exercised for years on what is called senatorial courtesy, as if it were an assumption by the Senate of course it is not. If the Senate were to cease to respect itself it would cease to deserve the respect of the country. In investigating nominations it does not impugn the President's motives, but merely passes upon his judgment, which is not infallible. He may be misled as to candidates. He may not in every case make the right selection, and when he fails it is the duty of the Senate, which is his proper adviser, to give him the opportunity to try again.

England Attacked by Sea.

Though comparatively little damage has been done by the German cruises that shelled cities on the east coast of England, the presence of those ships beyond the supposedly close blockade line maintained by the British fleet is highly significant. Of less importance than the immediate results of this attack are the circumstances which have permitted it. Are the German battleships now engaged at sea with the British? Or has a squadron of cruisers merely undertaken a dash to raid the North Sea, and by bombarding a few coast towns to cause error in England? Or, most important of all, is this maneuver to draw off British naval forces in one direction while the Germans rush out in another for a great sea battle, possibly a landing of troops?

Little or nothing is to be gained by the shelling of the coast, Scarborough, Whitby and Hartlepool. There is nothing there of value in the campaign. These points do not protect harbors or mouths of rivers on which naval construction establishments are located. Their bombardment seems so far that it is of no great importance. A deeper purpose than mere wanton destruction should be sought. Certainly the shelling of those towns is calculated to stimulate English recruiting, if it is true, as Berlin has lately been claiming, that Englishmen are slow about responding to the call for troops.

Further particulars of this affair will doubtless explain somewhat the motive for the raid, which now seems so purposeless.

There is no doubt that Col. Goethals will become impatient if he is compelled to wait for ships until an investigation of the deliberate and highly formal type has been concluded.

England has so many responsibilities that now this she is not likely to give official sanction to conduct in the Canal Zone calculated to create a new crisis.

In spite of the importance attached to it the Zeppelin did not have the fortune to participate in the feat of dropping shells on the British coast.

War demonstrates the old proposition that things are not luxuries merely because they are expensive.

The Red Cross and the War.

A wise decision has been reached by the American National Red Cross to discontinue efforts to relieve the suffering and starving non-combatants of Europe and to concentrate upon the task of administering to the needs of the sick and wounded participants in the war. The Red Cross is historically a war nursing organization, but of late years its activities have expanded to include the amelioration of all forms of human suffering. It has been a prompt and effective agency of mercy in cases of flood, fire, pestilence, famine and other forms of natural disaster, succoring millions of people through its direct ministrations. Its name has been potent for the collection of great sums of money for these purposes, and with its efficient organization it has been able to conserve the charitable energies of the citizens of this country and direct and apply them

most effectively with the least loss of time.

When the war in Europe broke reliance was naturally placed upon the Red Cross for effective services. It quickly organized hospital units which were sent abroad in remarkably short order. It undertook also to collect funds for the relief of those who were caught in the war sweep, though not participating in the struggle. But now it is apparent that this is too great a task. The agencies have been formed in the emergency and are working effectively. It is thus in the way of a division of labor that the Red Cross formally relinquishes the effort to rescue from suffering the millions of non-combatants who are now in such great measure dependent upon American charity for their daily bread. That these agencies will meet the demands upon them to the limit of American resources is well assured. Already great quantities of food and other supplies have been sent abroad, and more will go perhaps in increasing proportion as the need continues.

The Red Cross should be given the fullest possible support in its endeavor to lessen the horrors of war by its hospital work in the field. Its organization is so fully perfected that it can make every dollar work to its limit in maintaining hospital units and in furnishing medical and surgical supplies. Americans who have money to give are fully assured that their contributions will be expended with maximum effect by the Red Cross.

Office and Rewards.

Everybody is not chasing office. Take the situation in New York. Gov.-elect Whitman wants a good man—the best he can get—for the vacancy in the district attorneyship soon to exist by reason of his assumption of his new duties. The office is so important that several lawyers of note, but all have declined. Acceptance called for too great a money sacrifice. They felt they could not afford to surrender large returns from private practice for a comparatively small salary. Very likely, therefore, the office will go to a man less well known than the occasion seems to demand.

But may he not find the right man after all? He himself sought the office partly for the salary and partly for the opportunity to make reputation. He is, therefore, a man who is not widely known at the time. He improved his opportunity, and has now a national reputation, both in the law and in politics, with even the White House in the calculation of himself and friends.

There is still a chance for a man of energy and ability in the office. Mr. Whitman is vacating. New York has not been cleaned up as it should and must be. Mr. Whitman has done a good deal and Mayor Mitchell something, but much remains to be done before the big town and not organized crime is master.

The right man seizing the chance might go far. Why might he not repeat Mr. Whitman's performance, and secure Mr. Whitman's reward, rising to the office of governor after making reputation as district attorney? The higher offices, state and national, carry too small salaries. Some of them impose social obligations on the incumbents, which draw heavily on the purse. As a result, the rewards of private service are often more alluring than those of public service. It is not always possible to get the best qualified men for important commissions.

Something, however, must always be left to ambition. Money rewards are not the only rewards that attach to public service. Starting in small places carrying modest salaries, men have mounted high, some to the very top. Their money reward was as nothing compared with the other. Fame and influence made a winning of great value.

And when office in itself is a lure, it is one of the strongest. Some men, and they are not few, are attracted to the end of a long existence, and, if possible, die in the harness they had early put on.

The Community Christmas Tree.

Preparations for a community Christmas tree similar to that which was so successfully displayed in front of the Capitol last year are again under way, and there is every prospect that too late celebration of the great Christmas holiday will be even more effective than before.

Those who attended the annual service and display of the tree on the plaza of the Capitol last December will remember the experience. Somewhere else in the world, perhaps, could such a setting be found for so impressive a scene. With the experience of last year as a guide, the community celebration this Christmas will doubtless be a marked improvement, and there should be no question of a liberal provision of funds to carry the incidental expenses.

No naval officer's education should be considered complete until he has demonstrated that he thoroughly understands the principles and requirements of neutrality.

Some regard for the feelings of others should restrain a few representatives in Congress who have come to regard an attack on District finances as the greatest of American sports.

After noting what a large number of base ball clubs have been compelled to struggle along without the services of Walter Johnson, Washington lifts its head and refuses to grieve.

It is becoming easier to understand why the comparatively simple problems of ordinary politics failed to appeal to Col. Goethals.

The man who knows when not to take a presidential honor too seriously is a great blessing to his friends.

Any reference to the Nobel peace prize just now only constitutes an irritating reminder.

The Danger at Naco.

The seriousness of the latest development in the Mexican situation cannot be questioned. Through some perversion of disposition Mexican antagonists have so aligned themselves that shots are falling across the international boundary, killing Americans and gravely endangering other lives. Prospects against this intolerable situation have been ignored and it has been necessary to station federal troops at the boundary prepared to act in case of necessity to protect American rights. Gen. Bliss, promptly sent to the scene, has requested the dispatch of additional infantry and artillery and these forces have been started for the danger zone. The administration has decided that if the indiscriminate firing of shots across the border is not stopped very quickly the United States troops will open fire to drive the Mexicans from their present position to a point more distant from the boundary. The danger is not a distant one. The period and so the situation has not

yet resolved itself to the stage of an ultimatum. There remains the possibility of an adjustment without a conflict. Maj. Gen. Scott, chief of the general staff, has been sent to Naco to endeavor to persuade the Mexicans to avoid interference with American rights. Carranza, whose troops are holding a position which, through the attacks of the Villistas, has resulted in the loss of American lives, has declared that any intervention will be considered as a hostile act. The decision of the cabinet yesterday to proceed soon if the situation is not remedied by Mexican initiative, is virtually in answer to the announcement by Carranza. There is substantial ground in international law for the American contention that beligerents have no right to place their forces so as to put the lives of neutrals on their own territory in jeopardy, and thus in its protest to the Mexicans against the situation at Naco the American government has an unquestionable right, the exercise of which remains now a matter of discretion as involving the possibility of armed intervention in the Mexican complication.

Editor Waterson is now helping Secretary Bryan to demonstrate that one of the surest ways to give a man a peaceful disposition is to call him "Colonel."

Wireless telegraphy was expected to make life pleasant and communication easy. It is not working that way at present.

It must be admitted that the ownership of the Panama canal requires not only great wealth, but exceptional politeness and patience.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

A Fantastic Fling.

"I understand your husband is learning to dance."

"No," replied Mrs. Glumsky. "That report was started by some neighbors who happened to be looking through our basement window just after he had dropped a hot cinder on his foot."

Sympathetic

"Do you succeed in loving your enemies?"

"Not exactly," answered Senator Sorghum. "But I have a good deal of sympathy for them."

"I didn't know they needed sympathy."

"They don't. But they're going to before I get through with them."

Endless Chain Giving.

Full many a knick-knack will appear 'Mongst gifts on Christmas day Which are laid by for just a year And passed along the way.

The Annual Surplus.

"Lady," exclaimed Meandering Mike, "would you give me a turkey sandwich?"

"What for?"

"As a favor to your husband and the hired man. This is the time of year when they'd welcome any kind of a dent your charitable nature would cause you to put into the turkey supply."

Exaggerated Impression.

"I believe I'll wear a silk hat," said Mr. Bliggins.

"Let me see you try one on first," answered his wife. "A silk hat always has a curious effect of making a man look as if he had an extraordinary supply of sense or none at all."

Bundles.

When the sign "shop early" greets us And we struggle to comply, What a situation meets us!

As we see the days roll by: Everything that walks the streets, From a small boy to a dray, Has been loaded up with bundles To prepare for Christmas day.

There are bundles in the attic. There are bundles in the hall. With an effort systematic To conceal them one and all. Everybody toils and fusses. There are bundles in the air; There are bundles in the bushes. There are bundles everywhere!

The Department of Labor.

From the Springfield Republic. Certain conspicuous failures to secure settlement of industrial disputes through the good offices of the Department of Labor have given rise to a mistaken impression that the mediatorial achievements of the department have been inconsiderable. That the contrary is true is made clear by Secretary Wilson's report of the department's first full year of existence. It is shown that in a total of thirty-two cases satisfactory adjustments have been reached in twenty-three, while five cases are still pending and in only three cases is failure recorded.

Danger in Overcrowded Cars.

From the Jersey City Journal. Health Commissioner Goldwater's fight for the straphanger in New York is of vital interest to those who travel about in all large cities. "The willful crowding of cars," says the commissioner, "is a serious offense against public health and safety. It can be readily demonstrated that throat affections, tuberculosis and like diseases are transmitted from person to person under the conditions that exist in subway and other passenger cars. Hereof the fight against overcrowding in the cars has usually been waged on the score of discomfort. If it is now to be carried on as a health campaign, to safeguard the people against infection and contagion, it will probably be effective."

The Public Kicked Again.

From the New York Evening Sun. It was scarcely fair for speakers before the annual meeting of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers in this city recently to blame the public for the inadequacies of the measures at sea on the ground that the demand for luxury has crowded proper consideration of safety. The public in accepting luxuries takes the safety as a matter of course. It is doubtful if any passenger would leave the vessel who insisted upon personal comforts which he knew would imperil the vessel. It is absurd to presume that the voyager wants one luxury which cannot be supplied in addition to, rather than as a subtraction from, the safety of the ship.

The Lifting Pall.

From the St. Louis Times. It is gratifying to note and pleasing to recount the reports being received over the national and local tickers. From many sources come reassurances and hopeful signs of a quickening of the commercial pulse, a strengthening of the business and financial parts of the entire country. There is a rift, at least, in that cloud of uncertainty which has hung threateningly for nearly a year.

Tremendous Reductions

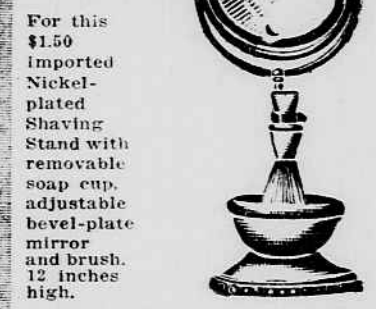
On All Christmas Toy Furniture

25% to 50% Savings on Furniture Gifts all Over the House

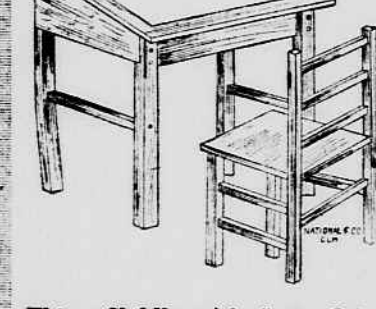
Libera Credit

A Wonderful Value

39c



For this \$1.50 imported Nickel-plated Shaving Stand with removable soap cup, adjustable bevel-plate and brush, 12 inches high.



This Child's 50c Substantial Rocker 19c

This Child's \$6 Mission Oak Desk and Chair \$1.98

This Doll's \$2.50 Brass Bed, complete, 30 in. long. This Handsome Doll Bed is complete with mattress and dainty cretonne drapery. Going fast. Get in early.



This Child's \$1 Friction Automobile 35c

Fine \$8 Early English or Fumed Oak Rocker, \$4.48



Heavy construction—polished in chase leather. A handsome, useful gift for anybody.

This Ladies' \$6 Solid Oak Desk \$3.95



"OUT OF THE HIGH-RENT DISTRICT."



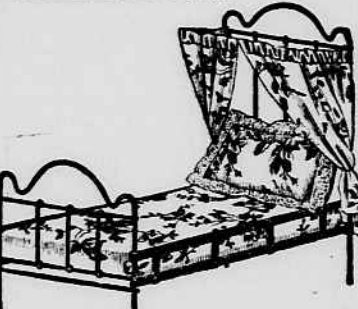
Diamonds, Watches and Jewelry



Rooms 301-302 Metropolitan Bank Bldg. 613 15th St. N.W. (OPPOSITE TREASURY) Take Elevator



This Child's 50c Substantial Rocker 19c



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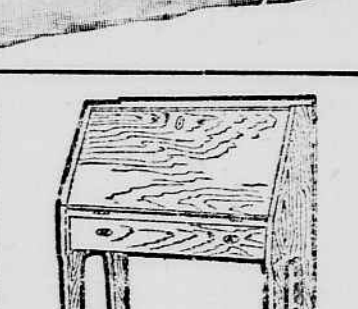
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Hecht's

Seventh Street

Things Suitable for Gift Giving Under Price

Women's and Misses' Winter Coats Made to Sell at \$19.50 \$11.85

Embracing the very best styles and fabrics of the season. Showing the popular flare bottom, belted back models of zibelins, chevots and wool mixtures. Self and plush collars.

Women's and Misses' Fur-trimmed Suits \$24.50
Fur-trimmed Suits \$15.00
Of a splendid quality of cheviot, in the latest short-coat style, with bands of fur trimming around neck and sleeves of coat. Serviceable linings. Full skirts.

Silk Petticoats, each in a holly \$1.90
Separate Skirts of Fine Serge, \$2.49
Why Not an Anorak Wool Mo-tor Scarf \$1.50
Sweaters of Angora Wool Special at \$3.98

79c Flannelette Dressing Sacques, 50c
69c Knit Underskirts, Special, 55c
Beacon Blanket Bath Robes, \$2.89
Warm Flannelette & Percale Wrappers, \$1.19

Women's Felt Juliette Slippers, \$1.00
Men's Leather House Slippers, \$1.50
Girls' \$7.50 to \$8.95 Coats, \$6.98
Girls' \$3.98 to \$6.00 Coats, \$2.98

Men's Heavy Blanket Bath Robes, \$2.65
Axminster Rugs, \$1.59
If you have a man friend and want to give him something that will reflect your good taste, present him with a blanket bathrobe and watch the pleased expression of his face. These offered in tomorrow's sale are cut full and large, with large collars, pockets, cord girdle with tassels. In a good assortment of colors and designs.

Women's Pure Silk Stockings, 79c
Men's Silk Ties Regular 50c Kind, 35c
\$14 Trunks; Large Size Special at \$9.98
\$8.00 Cowhide Suit Case, \$6.95

Boys' Indian and Cowboy Play Suits, 98c
Boys' \$5 Raincoat, \$3.89
Men's 75c to \$1.00 All-Silk Four-in-hands, 55c
Women's Boot-silk Stockings, \$1.00

Two "Christmasy" Suggestions
Marabou Muffs and Capes French Plumes at 1/2 to 1/3 off Regular Prices
Soft, fluffy fibers, mixed with ostrich. Black and natural color.
Of good quality ostrich, with broad flues; heavy, graceful heads. Black, white and colors.

Boys' \$5 Raincoat, \$3.89
Men's 75c to \$1.00 All-Silk Four-in-hands, 55c
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